

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Currently amended) A protective mask for resisting biting by a detainee, the mask comprising:

a panel of flexible, breathable material shaped to extend across and cover the nose, mouth and cheeks of a wearer;

the panel having an upper edge for extending across the bridge of a wearer's nose, a lower edge for locating at or below a wearer's chin, opposite sides for positioning adjacent the ears of the wearer, an inner face for facing towards a wearer's face, and an outer face;

at least one fastener strap extending between the opposite sides of the panel for extending around the back of a wearer's head in order to secure the panel in position across a wearer's face; and

the panel having a central region which is folded about an axis extending from the lower edge towards the upper edge of the panel to provide a tented, open region chamber facing a wearer's face and extending below the nose and over the mouth of the wearer, the tented region chamber being open having an open lower end at the lower edge of the panel to allow escape of body fluids.

2. (currently amended) The mask as claimed in claim 1, wherein the panel is of a breathable, flexible fabric material to allow external air to freely enter the chamber.

3. (original) The mask as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an elongate strip member secured to the central region of the inner face of the panel to extend transversely across the mouth of the wearer and resisting biting by the wearer through the panel.

4. (original) The mask as claimed in claim 3, wherein the strip member extends from the lower edge towards the upper edge of the panel.

5. (original) The mask as claimed in claim 3, wherein the strip member is of sponge rubber material.
6. (original) The mask as claimed in claim 3, wherein the strip member is of more rigid material than the panel.
7. (original) The mask as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fastener strap is of elastic strip material.
8. (original) The mask as claimed in claim 1, including two spaced fastener straps extending from each side of the panel.
9. (original) The mask as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one fastener strap extends between opposite sides of the panel at locations adjacent the upper edge of the panel, whereby the upper edge of the panel is held closely against the wearer's face when the mask is worn.
10. (original) The mask as claimed in claim 9, wherein the lower edge of the panel hangs free and unsecured when the mask is worn.
11. (Currently amended) ~~The mask as claimed in claim 1, further comprising A~~  
protective mask for resisting biting by a detainee, the mask comprising:  
a panel of flexible, breathable material shaped to extend across and cover the  
nose, mouth and cheeks of a wearer;  
the panel having an upper edge for extending across the bridge of a wearer's  
nose, a lower edge for locating at or below a wearer's chin, opposite sides for  
positioning adjacent the ears of the wearer, an inner face for facing towards a wearer's  
face, and an outer face;  
at least one fastener strap extending between the opposite sides of the panel for  
extending around the back of a wearer's head in order to secure the panel in position  
across a wearer's face; and

the panel having a central region which is folded about an axis extending from the lower edge towards the upper edge of the panel to provide a tented, open region facing a wearer's face and extending below the nose and over the mouth of the wearer, the tented region being open at the lower edge of the panel to allow escape of body fluids; and

a fold-forming strip of material secured between opposing, spaced portions of the inner face of the panel in the central region to hold the central region in a folded condition.

12. (original) The mask as claimed in claim 11, wherein the fold forming strip is elastic.

13. (original) The mask as claimed in claim 1, wherein the panel comprises two layers of material secured together around at least the upper, lower and side edges of the panel.

14. (original) The mask as claimed in claim 13, wherein the panel is formed from a single sheet of material folded in half lengthwise to form said two layers.

15. (original) The mask as claimed in claim 14, wherein the fastener strap comprises an elastic member extending between the two layers of material across the upper edge of the panel and outwardly from opposite sides of the panel for extending around the back of the wearer's head.

16. (original) The mask as claimed in claim 15, including at least one additional elastic member extending between opposite sides of the panel at a location spaced below said upper edge.

17. (original) A protective mask for resisting biting by a detainee, the mask comprising:  
a panel of flexible, breathable material shaped to extend across and cover the nose, mouth and cheeks of a wearer;

the panel having an upper edge for extending across the bridge of a wearer's nose, a lower edge for locating at or below a wearer's chin, opposite sides for positioning adjacent the ears of the wearer, an inner face for facing towards a wearer's face, and an outer face;

at least one fastener strap extending between the opposite sides of the panel for extending around the back of a wearer's head in order to secure the panel in position across a wearer's face; and

an elongate strip member secured to the central region of the inner face of the panel to extend transversely across the mouth of a wearer and resisting biting by the wearer through the panel.

18. (original) The mask as claimed in claim 17, wherein the strip member is of sponge rubber material.

19. (original) The mask as claimed in claim 17, wherein two spaced straps extend from opposite sides of the panel, one strap being located above the ears of a wearer and the other strap being located below the ears of a wearer when the mask is worn.

20. (original) The mask as claimed in claim 19, wherein the straps are secured together at a central region located behind the wearer's head when the mask is worn.

21. (original) The mask as claimed in claim 17, wherein the lower edge of the mask is free when the mask is worn to provide an opening for exit of body fluids excreted from the wearer's mouth or nose during use of the mask.

22. (original) The mask as claimed in claim 17, wherein a vertically extending fold is formed in a central region of the mask, the fold extending down to the lower edge of the mask to provide a fluid exit opening from the mask.

23. (original) The mask as claimed in claim 22, including an elastic strip secured between opposing inner portions of the central region of the mask to form the fold.

24. (original) A combination security mask and carrying pouch assembly, comprising:

a protective mask comprising a panel of flexible, breathable material shaped to extend across and cover the nose, mouth and cheeks of a wearer, at least one fastener strap for extending from the panel around the back of a wearer's head for securing the panel in position across a wearer's face, and an elongate strip member secured to the central region of the inner face of the panel to extend transversely across the mouth of a wearer and resist biting by the wearer through the panel, the mask being foldable into a compact configuration for storage purposes; and

a pouch having a pocket of predetermined dimensions for receiving the mask when in its folded, compact configuration, and a ring secured to the pouch for securing it to a key ring or belt loop.